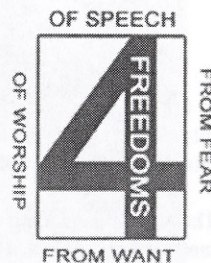


# STONEWALL NEWS

STONEWALL DEMOCRATIC CLUB, SACRAMENTO

Spring 2005

www.SacStonewall.org (916) 359-1040



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tip O'Neill, the legendary Democratic Speaker of the House, coined the phrase that in America, "All politics is local." Ironically, it has been the Republicans that have taken this message to heart. While the Democratic Party was asleep at the wheel, the Republican Party took over school boards, city councils and every county board of supervisors. They used these positions as a springboard, and now the Republican Party controls both houses of Congress, and the majority of state legislatures and Governorships.

It is time for Democrats to change how we campaign, and I am proud to say that in Sacramento, Stonewall is leading the way. Politics have changed. Campaigns are now a year-round affair, not a biennial exercise that takes place between September and November every even-numbered year. Stonewall has led the effort to open a coordinated campaign now, so we will not lose the momentum we built last November. This year we will be building our base, talking to our neighbors, and increasing the number of Democratic voters during this "off year" so we can keep Sacramento a blue county.

On April 9, 2005, Stonewall will be offering a course for Stonewall members on how to get a city or county appointment, so we can increase the numbers of openly gay and gay-friendly people serving in Sacramento. This fall Stonewall will be offering candidate training, so if you have ever thought about running for local office, we will give you real world advice on how to make that dream a reality.

Stonewall is the largest Democratic Club in Sacramento County, and we are known as the club that gets stuff done. We need to continue our successes, and we will succeed if we focus where we will have the most impact, just as Mr. O'Neill said, here locally.

Daniel Roth

## SACRAMENTO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COORDINATED CAMPAIGN KICKS IT INTO HIGH GEAR

Sadly the Democrats in Sacramento County have not had the benefit of a continuous coordinated campaign effort.

The day after county and statewide elections, the campaign office du jour closes.

The staff, the data, and the volunteers disappear. Then, two months before the next election, everything has to be resurrected from scratch.

I am proud to announce that I have been given permission by the Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee to change that sad scenario by opening a permanent Sacramento County Democratic Coordinated Campaign.

We have a space at 1331 21st Street. We have a computer. We have office supplies. We have a staff ready to go! Through this continuous campaign office, we can focus on strengthening support for Democratic values and the Democratic Party.

Our primary goals will be to:

- Keep Democrats engaged.
- Put troops on the ground who are trained and knowledgeable.
- Develop a "people infrastructure," i.e. people with titles and responsibilities.
- Develop a physical infrastructure, i.e. computers, data, office.
- Raise money to make all this possible.

If you would like to help with this crucial work; if you want to see Sacramento County remain a Democratic County; if you want to help us defeat the Governor's disastrous plans in his upcoming fall special election; if you want to fight back - then give me a call at 359-1040 and join the new team of Fighting Back Democrats!!

Lavender Library, Archives  
and Cultural Exchange  
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Sam Catalano

### Stonewall Officers

Daniel Roth.....President  
Darrick Lawson...Vice President  
Elaine Verbarg.....Membership  
Sam Catalano.....Treasurer  
Nick Velasquez....Secretary  
Laurie McBride.....Political Action  
Committee  
Ron Spingarn.....Fundraising



# LET'S NOT FORGET OUR HISTORY

By Senator Kevin Murray

In the face of a mountain of historical evidence to the contrary, Republicans are once again trying to convince African Americans that they have their best interests at heart. The recent meeting in Los Angeles of seventy black ministers with Republican leaders and far right religious evangelicals represents the latest and most audacious effort yet.

The challenges facing our African American clergy in attempting to address spiritual and material need in our community are enormous. I am sure that for many who attended, it was good to be courted and receive some deserved recognition.

However, we should keep in mind that it has been one-hundred and fifty years since the Republican Party was truly the party of Abraham Lincoln. For the past half century they have opposed the interests of African Americans.

The list is a long one. But here are a few of the African American interests they have opposed: school desegregation; the 1964 Civil Rights Act; the 1965 Voting Rights Act; affirmative action; anti-discrimination laws regarding fair housing and equal employment, just to name a few. Imagine the kind of America we would be living in today if they had prevailed.

In recent years they have opposed measures to eliminate racial profiling; worked to pass Proposition 209 repealing California's affirmative action policies; and cut funding for food stamps and housing assistance for the poor. Republicans consistently put the interests of big business ahead of the interests of black people.

Over the past 50 years, they have made an art of exploiting bigoted attitudes for political advantage. Their efforts have resulted in the old confederacy becoming almost entirely Republican.

In recent years their calling card has been faith-based funding, offering funding to churches for badly needed social services. The irony here of course is that it was the Republicans who, in order to give tax-breaks to millionaires, shredded the public social service safety-net. Having created the funding shortages in the first place, they now come trying to buy affection from the religious community.

This worked to their advantage in the last election. In fact, there were reports that some churches in a number of states who received funding were solicited and provided membership lists for the Bush-Cheney campaign.

In the November presidential election they discovered that they could get a lot more votes defending marriage, and exploiting resentment against gays. What the meeting in Los Angeles tells us is that they are now working to exploit those attitudes to get black support.

Same-sex marriage is highly controversial, and among the clergy there is considerable opposition. There are many people of good will who differ in their opinions. But surely the policies of the Democrats, with all their faults, better serve the interests of the vast majority of their parishioners.

There is a scene in the explicitly racist, but historically significant motion picture *Birth of a Nation*, where a white actor in black-face forces himself on a white woman. The Civil War is over, and the film depicts hordes of black people abusing their special rights and trampling over the rights of decent white southerners. To the horror of millions of white Americans in 1915, this film validated prevalent fears of that time.

The public's reaction was so strong that politicians were quick to make political capital of those fears. A new crop of anti-miscegenation laws flourished outlawing interracial marriage and the mongrelization of the races, and Jim Crow became firmly established. It really didn't matter that interracial marriage was extremely rare at that time.

This movie came to mind when I read about how the Republican leaders were attempting to recruit a group of African American ministers to their cause. The newspapers report that they spent much of their meeting railing against same-sex marriage and even watched a video featuring Sen. Trent Lott, R-Mississippi, stoking resentment against gays over their special rights. The meeting produced a document called the Black Contract With America on Moral Values, the center-piece of which was a ban on same-sex marriage.

Well, they can have their contract. Here is mine.

My Contract for Black America would insist on universal health care for every American, and an urban reinvestment initiative to rebuild decaying parts of our inner cities -- if there is money to rebuild Iraq, there should be money to rebuild our inner cities. It would provide the education funding needed to save all the children left behind by the Bush Administration's lack of support for its own program, and it would preserve affirmative action. My contract would require the rich to pay their fair share of the taxes, protect Social Security as a social insurance program for future generations, and pledge freedom from bigotry and discrimination for all our citizens.

Those are some moral values we should all be able to live by. But, I challenge you to find a Republican official who would be willing to sign it.

If you have seen *Birth of a Nation*, you will know that the heroic moral arbiter of the story is the Ku Klux Klan. It is the KKK that rides to the rescue to avenge the honor of the south. Ninety years later we now have the right wing Republicans offering to serve as our moral arbiter. Do you feel comfortable with that?

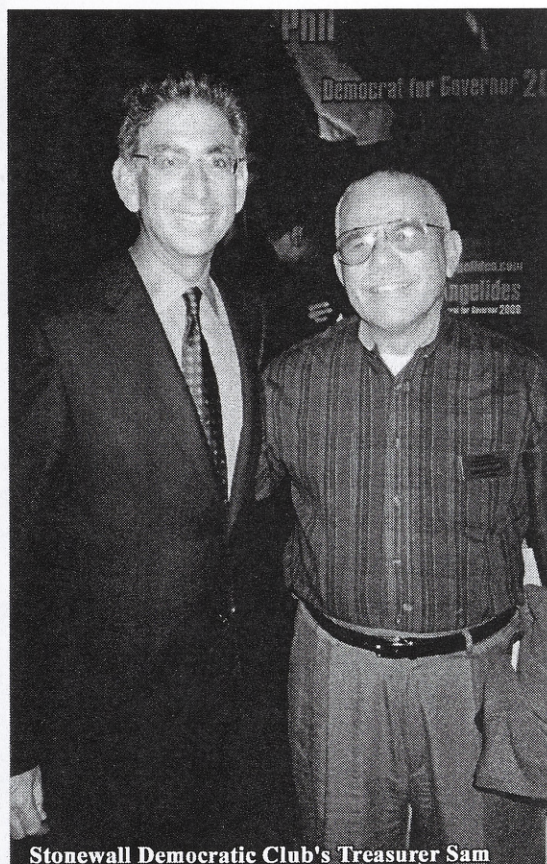
There is no moral value in exploiting bigotry, whatever you think of same-sex marriage. We as African Americans should not forget our history, and allow ourselves to be used in this shameful way. We should remember how history repeats itself. Today it is the gays. Tomorrow it could once again be us.

*Kevin Murray is a Democratic State Senator from Los Angeles representing the 26th Senate District. He is Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus.*





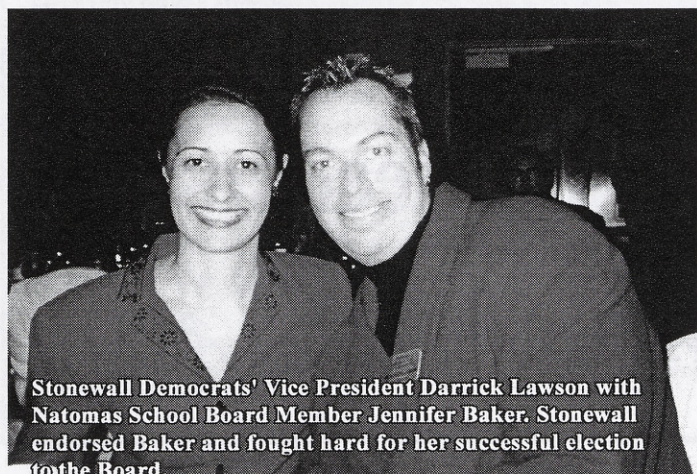
(from l to r) Stonewall Democrats' Vice President Darrick Lawson; Secretary/ Communications Director Nick Velasquez; former Assemblymember, and current President of the California Cable Association Dennis Mangers; PAC Chair Laurie McBride; and Stonewall President Dan Roth at Angelides 06 campaign event.



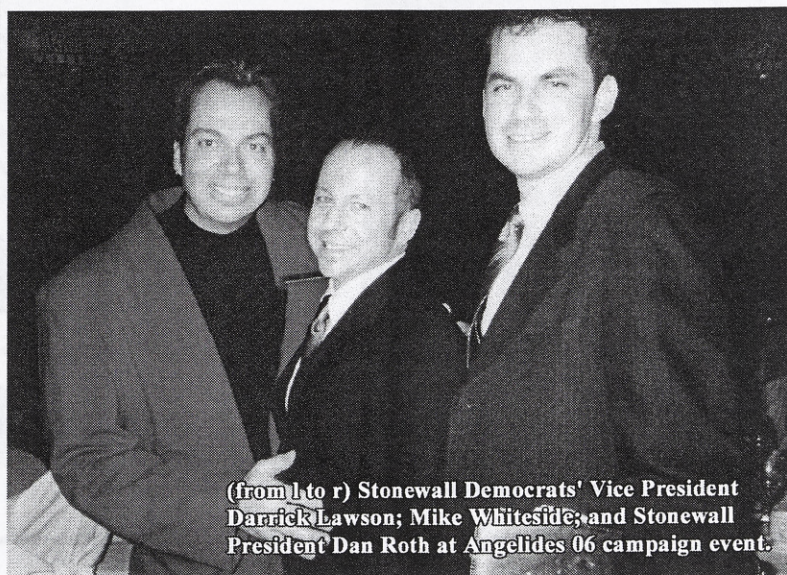
Stonewall Democratic Club's Treasurer Sam Catalano and Phil Angelides strike a pose at an Angelides 06 campaign event.



(from l to r) PAC Chair Laurie McBride, State Treasurer Phil Angelides, V.P. Dr. Darrick Lawson, and Stonewall President Dan Roth at Angelides 06 campaign event



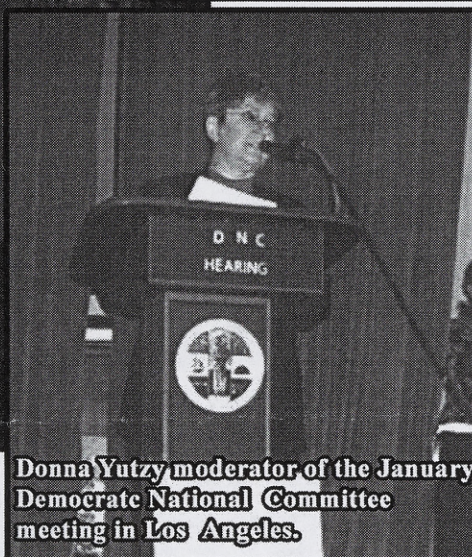
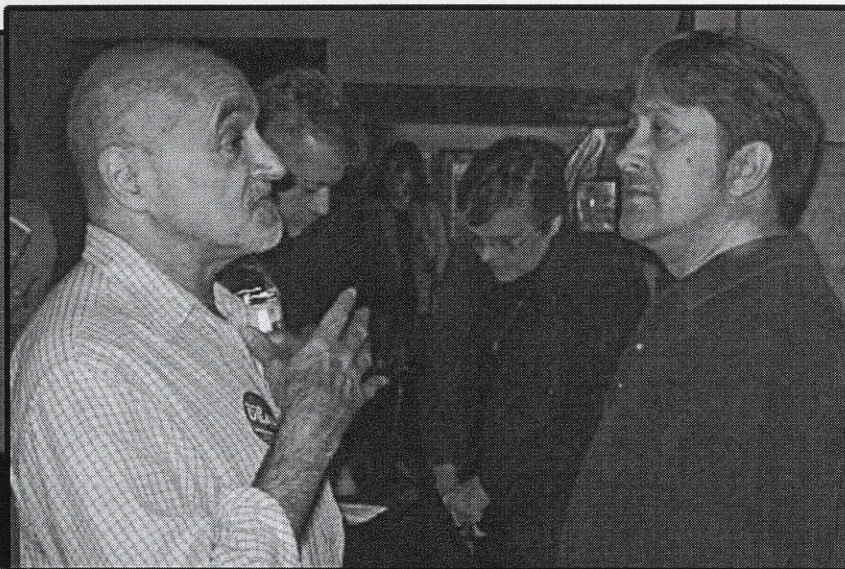
Stonewall Democrats' Vice President Darrick Lawson with Natomas School Board Member Jennifer Baker. Stonewall endorsed Baker and fought hard for her successful election to the Board.



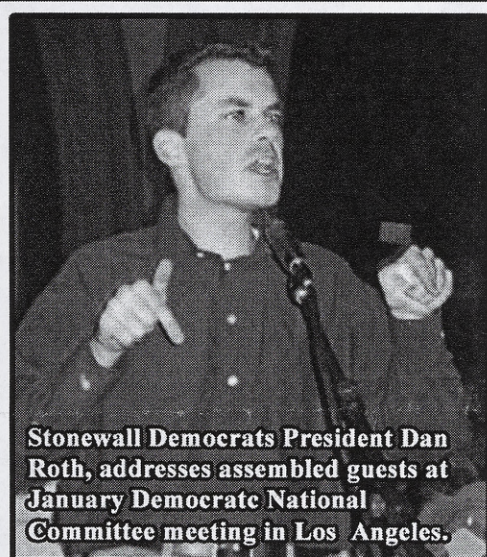
(from l to r) Stonewall Democrats' Vice President Darrick Lawson; Mike Whiteside; and Stonewall President Dan Roth at Angelides 06 campaign event.



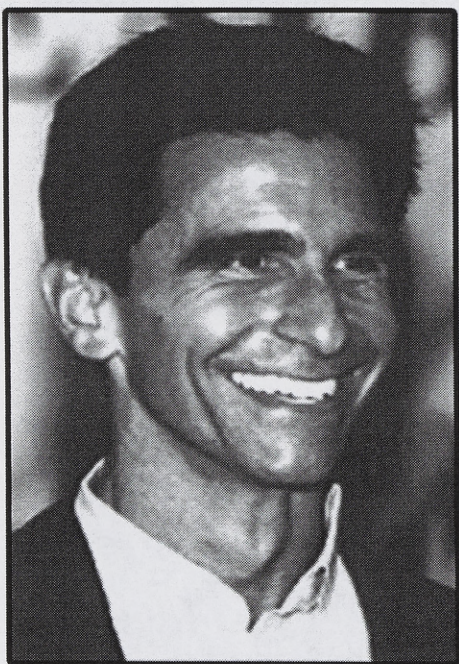
National Stonewall Democrats Co-Chair and Stonewall Political Action Committee Chair, Laurie McBride, addresses assembled guests at January Democratic National Committee meeting in Los Angeles.



Donna Yutzy moderator of the January Democratic National Committee meeting in Los Angeles.



Stonewall Democrats President Dan Roth, addresses assembled guests at January Democratic National Committee meeting in Los Angeles.



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Proud to stand in battle with our Stonewall sisters and brothers as we spread our message of love and commitment.

Thanks for your leadership.

Assemblyman Mark Leno



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

For those of you who have renewed your membership over the last few months, many thanks. For those of you who have not renewed, there is still a window of opportunity awaiting you. Please send your check to: 1861 Pebblewood Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833.

In January we expanded our membership options to include several new levels. All levels still give you membership in National Stonewall Democrats, quarterly newsletters, email announcements, the right to run for office in National and Sacramento Stonewall Democrats, and the right to vote on endorsements and donations.

The First level of membership is the Titanium Level at \$1000. This level gives you the opportunity to get a full page ad in each of our four quarterly newsletters, a link on our website, a web ad, a one-time mailing to our membership (you give us the document, postage and we mail it out), a listing in our 4 Freedoms program and poster, first choice of tables at the 4 Freedoms dinner, plus the option for a hosted event at your business or home, as well as 50 raffle tickets at selected events.

The Second level of membership is the Platinum Level at \$500. At this level you will get a half page ad in each of our four quarterly newsletters, a link on our website, a listing on the program and poster at the 4 Freedoms dinner, a second choice of tables at the 4 Freedoms dinner and 25 raffle tickets at selected events.

The Third level of membership is the Gold Level at \$250. At this level, members are entitled to a quarter page ad in each of our four quarterly newsletters, along with a link on our website, a listing on the 4 Freedoms poster and 10 raffle tickets at selected events.

The Fourth level of membership is the Silver Level \$100. At this level you will get a business card sized ad in each of our four newsletters (circulation 500) and a listing on our 4 Freedoms poster.

Our Bronze level is our regular membership level of \$35.

Please consider renewing your membership before your anniversary date so that you can take advantage of advertising at our 4 Freedoms dinner, and the summer, fall and winter newsletters. And pass this newsletter on to someone who might be interested in joining the Stonewall Democratic club of Greater Sacramento. We are the largest Democratic club in the area!

## FUNDRAISER NEWS: FUN(D) RAISING WITH MARGARET CHO

A fun time is sure to be had by all at the Margaret Cho performance and fun(d)-raiser for the Stonewall Democrats on April 14. Ms. Cho will be meeting with 50 lucky Stonewallers at a special VIP reception.

She has been actively engaged in Democratic politics for years. Her political interests come from "society's consistent and constant disregard and lack of respect for minorities," she states on her web blog, "Even the title 'minority', when in many areas of the country we are in fact the majority, is too much to bear silently."

She has not always cared about politics, however. "I had long regarded the world of political humor as the province of white men that I immediately disqualified myself." But she is no longer politically closeted.

"I know better now, and it is immensely pleasing when I am referred to as a political comedian, because it feels true. It feels strong."

Look for photos of the event with Margaret on our website and in the next edition of the newsletter.

### ASSEMBLYMAN MARK LENO & NSD BOARD RECEPTION

Over fifty people attended a fabulous reception with Assemblyman Mark Leno and members of the National Stonewall Democrats Board of Directors who visited Sacramento from across the country on December 4, 2004.

The event, hosted at The Phoenix Art Gallery and catered by Refer-A-Chef, raised more than \$5,000 that was split evenly between Assemblyman Leno and the National Stonewall Democrats.

### FOUR FREEDOMS DINNER

Plans are underway for the next Four Freedoms Awards Dinner, which is planned for July. We will let you know as soon as we confirm the date, location and other details.

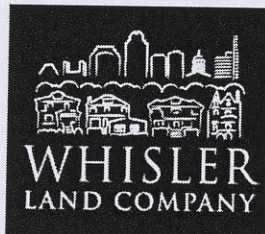
There are ways that you can help, even before we nail down details for the event: Donate an item or service. Look around your house for items that can be used to make a gift-basket or stand-alone: CDs, a painting, a vase or other items. Don't Re-Gift; Donate To Us. Ask friends and family to donate.



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[assemblymember.laird@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.laird@assembly.ca.gov)



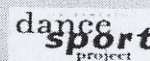
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## NEWLY-ELECTED ASSEMBLYMEMBER DAVE JONES WORKS HARD FOR SACRAMENTANS

Dan Roth, President of the Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento

Even though it was 5:00 on a Friday afternoon, Sacramento's newly-elected Assemblymember Dave Jones and his staff were moving with all the energy of a Wednesday afternoon. Sitting in his district office on L Street across the street from the Capitol, his staff is still working diligently even though most offices have gone home for the weekend. One of his lawn signs from his city council campaigns is framed and on the wall. Although the window outside still says "Assemblymember Darrell Steinberg," there is little doubt that Dave Jones has declared this Assembly seat his own.

"Things are going well," Dave told me. "I am doing everything to master the issues that will come before the committees I am sitting on. I was really bowled over by the Speaker's decision to appoint me to chair the Assembly Judiciary Committee. I have also been appointed to the Health, Public Employees Retirement and Revenue and Taxation Committees."

Marriage equality is by far one of the most controversial issues that will be before the legislature this year. As chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee Dave will hear Assembly Bill 19, the "Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act", legislation that would protect religious freedom and ensure equal treatment under the law for same-sex couples. The bill is jointly authored by Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez (D-Los Angeles) and Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), and sponsored by Equality California, the State's leading LGBT advocacy organization.

"I am proud to be co-authoring the bill and I expect a favorable hearing in Assembly Judiciary and a favorable hearing on the Assembly Floor," Jones said.

Outside of gay and lesbian issues, Assemblyman Jones is determined to "balance demands of the Capitol and the greater needs of the community." His legislative package is diverse. AB 1032 would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop professional development standards for preschool classroom staff. "I am an advocate for Universal Preschool and want to create a pipeline for preschool students," Dave said.

Dave is also authoring AB 1387 that will, as he said, "make it easier to do infill in residential development." The bill would provide that if a residential project on an infill site in an urbanized area is in compliance with the traffic and transportation policies in the general plan of the local government, then the project could bypass unneeded bureaucracy and be built much faster than under current restrictions.

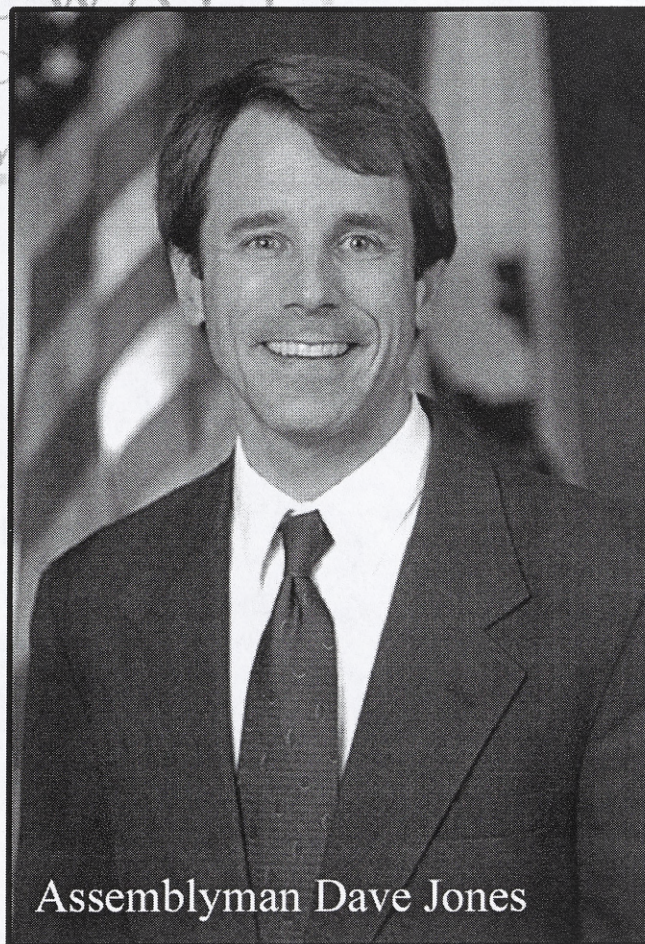
Although Dave has only been in office for a couple months, he has already had an opportunity to butt heads with Governor Schwarzenegger. In February, Dave met the press outside one of the Governor's press conferences outside Cal Expo. The Governor had staged a photo-op outside the Cal Expo fountain. The Governor's staff had dyed the water in the fountain red. The Governor turned a spigot on and off and talked about his need to stop the red ink.

Dave was there to talk about his disappointment with the Governor's budget and his cuts in education, transportation and health care. He held up a t-shirt that said, "Governor Schwarzenegger went to DC and all voters got was this lousy t-shirt."

On the Governor's proposed pension reform Dave said, "What the Governor is doing is the same as Bush is doing on social security. He is creating hysteria to privatize the pension system like Bush wants to privatize Social Security."

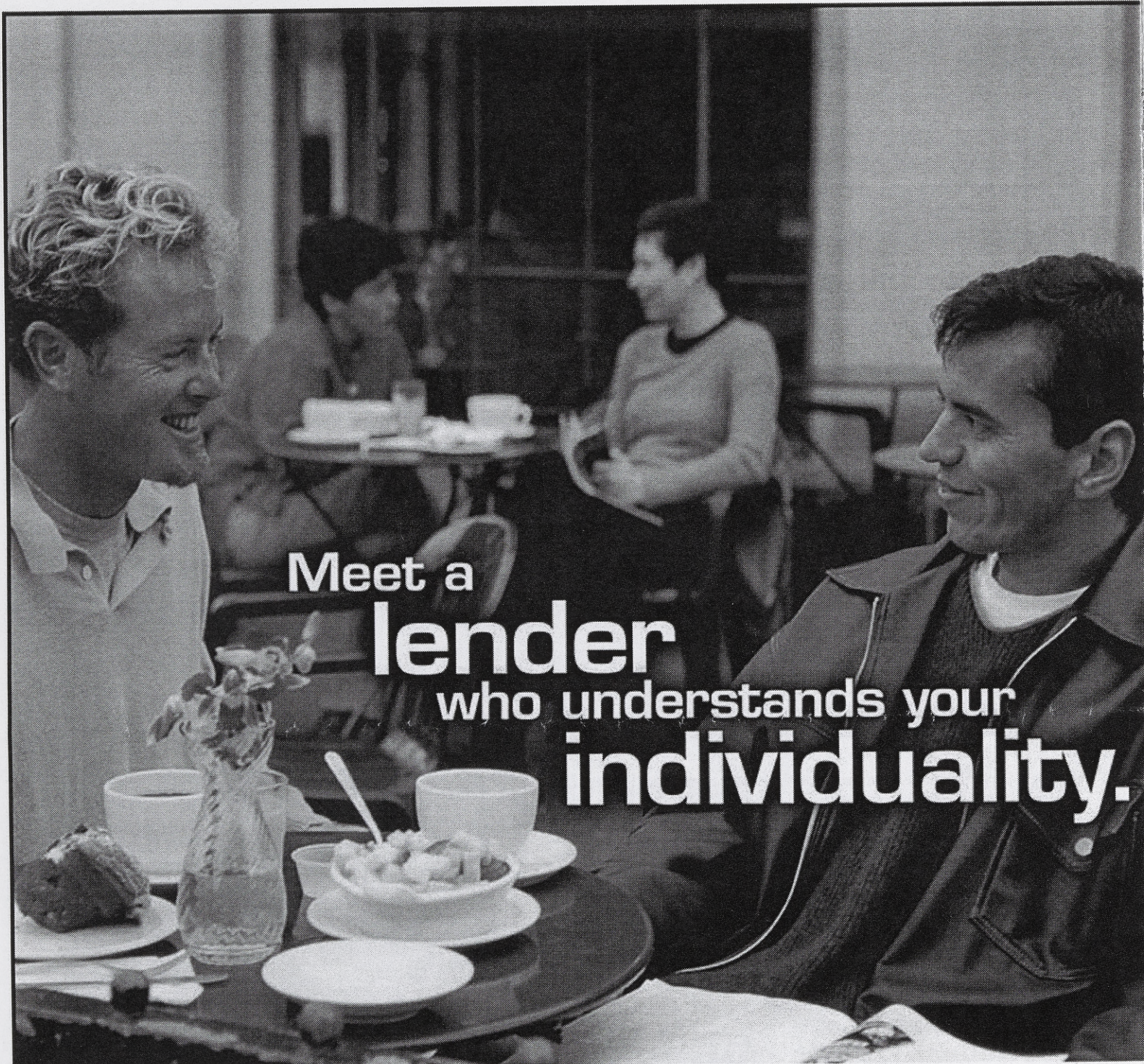
A little after 5:30 Dave and I walked out his office. He was heading to the Capitol for another meeting. Dave is bringing his energy that he showed throughout his campaign for the Assembly and his reputation as a smart and hard-working public servant from the Sacramento City Council to the State Assembly.

*Dan Roth, President of the Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento*



Assemblyman Dave Jones





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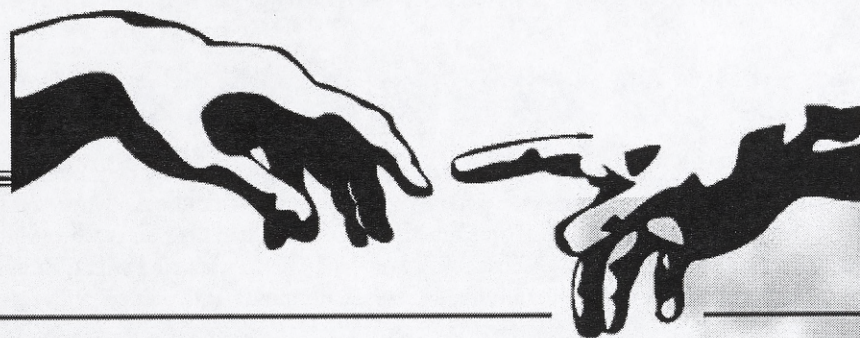
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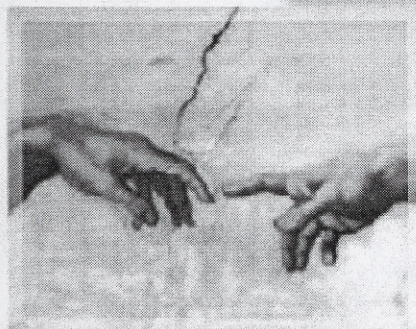
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# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ON HOW TO GET ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS!

In our continuing efforts to help Stonewallers get themselves appointed to city and county boards and commissions (why - because you learn a lot, do good things for your community, it looks great on a resume and is a stepping stone to political advancement), Stonewall is having a special training session and panel discussion on Saturday, April 9th from 10 am to 12 noon at the Sacramento Mutual Housing office. Folks who currently serve will be there, as well as city officials, to discuss the how, what, where, when and why of successful board appointments. If you have ever considered the idea of serving on a board or commission, this is the training/help you need. For more information, email Tom Brandeberry at [mancityfan@juno.com](mailto:mancityfan@juno.com).

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MONTHLY MEETINGS

Held every 2nd Monday of each month at Club 21 1119 21st St, Sacramento. Each meeting normally consists of a special guest speaker and club business.

## STONEWALL WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WHO HAVE CHOSEN SPECIAL LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP AS OF MARCH 1, 2005. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE WORK OF STONEWALL:

Supervisor Illa Collin Silver  
Brian McMartin Silver  
Dr. Darrick Lawson Titanium  
Jack Maple Titanium  
Assemblyman Mark Leno Platinum

Dennis Mangers Gold  
Mark Whisler Silver  
Assemblymember John Laird Silver  
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Newsletter edited by Ron Mullins

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